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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO.

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CD NO. *July 23*

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY USSR (Gorki Oblast)

SUBJECT Gorki Airfield

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Letter of 10 October 1978 from the Director of Central Intelligence to the Archivist of the United States.

Next Review Date: 2008

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1. The airfield about 5 miles southwest of the mouth of the Oka River, in the Sormova town quarter of GORKI, Gorki Oblast, extended about 5,800 feet along the highway to MOSCOW. Its width was about 5,000 feet. There were no concrete runways or taxiways. Aircraft Plant No. 21 was east of the field; a public park was to the north.
2. Two large hangars, each 65x130 feet, and a flight control station with a small wooden tower were on the northern edge of the field. Northeast of the field there were cantonment buildings, a railroad spur track, and two four-story gray house blocks with nine entrances each, the latter occupied by officers and their dependents. A mobile DF station was available. No take-off, boundary or obstacle lighting facilities were seen. The field was guarded by civilian sentries, including many women carrying rifles.
3. In August 1949, the field was occupied by 24 to 27 conventional fighters, two Douglas courier planes, one Ju-52, and one turbo jet plane.
 - a. Description of turbo-jet plane: Air intake in nose, exhaust in tail immediately forward of rudder assembly, wings dihedral and swept back, elevator assembly swept back and dihedral to the rear, slim retracting landing gear, nose wheel.
4. There was intensive flying. The fighters took off individually and in formations of three planes in line as well as in formations of nine to twelve planes at the same time. Only take-offs, landings, and local flights were usually practiced. The turbo jet plane flew all day long in low-level flights, acrobatics with rollings and loopings.
5. believed that it was a well-equipped airdrome with a fighter school.

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Comment:

a. The information on the location and stage of construction of the field agrees with previous reports. Only one report stated that two runways were available, whereas all other previous reports made no mention of runways. The statement in this report that no runway was available is therefore considered credible.

b. The occupation of the field by conventional and swept back jet fighters is considered credible when compared with previous information. Further information is required to determine whether, in addition to aircraft for flight training, a fighter unit or fighter school is also stationed at the field.

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